

汉语语法与词汇的工具书
han4yu3 yu3fa3 yu3 ci2hui4 de gong1ju4shu1
Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

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Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

Introduction 介绍:



The subject of how to introduce a language's grammar and vocabulary is always a point of argument among people. I have personally found that acquiring an understanding of the basic structural components of a language's grammar and being familiar with some basic vocabulary, provides a person with the skills needed to then later individually study the language in greater depth.

To take this point further, I believe the components of the language that both students and native-speakers most heavily rely on during day-to-day activity, whether it's consciously realized or not, are those structural grammar components which are least likely to have contextual meaning variations (are static in meaning), while at the same time are most often repeated in speech or in text. In the Chinese language, these components are as follows: pronouns, common nouns, numbers, measure words, common verbs, adverbs, common adjectives, prepositions, conjunctions and particle auxiliary words.

Acquiring a good understanding of the language's static components will provide a person with a sound structural framework with which to speak and read the language. In everyday life, the components of the language which are most likely to change or appear to be new to the student are the speech/text context-dependent verbs, nouns and adjectives. The student can rely on their already acquired structural framework of the language to parse-out and distinguish these unrecognized components, and then use resources such as dictionaries or via inquiring to others to discover the meaning of unknown words.

Most of the grammar and vocabulary found below is of a introductory nature and is usually introduced to first-year Chinese language students (intermediate/advanced material is notated appropriately). Instead of explaining grammar from the point of academic rules, I have chosen to explain it from the point of real-life examples. The real-life examples are more easily grasped by the student than are grammar rules. If in the future, a student wishes to study the academic points of grammar, the basic grammar structure introduced below will give them the foundation they'll need to pursue that study.

Since Chinese is a highly context-sensitive language, I urge you to rely less on rules of grammar and instead use your ears and your eyes to glean meaning from what others say or from what you read. The more you rely on rules of grammar, the more often you will become frustrated when you find the rules are too often broken or not strictly adhered to in real-life. Consider grammar rules to be just a rough starting point, and not at all a final conclusion. In the end, the meaning of any language is in every person's mind, spirit, and feeling which when attempted to analyze, will always falls short of capturing the message's true meaning and essence. I hope that this introduction to Chinese will encourage and inspire you to further explore the depths of this very rich language.

Once you have finished reading and studying this document (汉语语法与词汇的工具书 Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide), go to the Chinese Lessons webpage <http://www.marchollingsworth.net/Folders/Webpages/ChineseLessonsEC.html> of this website to see how this vocabulary is used in a real-life context. In that section you can download  MP3 files of actual Chinese conversations and accompanying transcribed  PDF documents. You can also download songs from that webpage which will give you an even deeper impression of the language. I also recommend the 汉语教程第一册 han4yu3 jiao4cheng2 di4yi2 ce4 Chinese General Comprehensive course, first volume textbook described on webpage <http://www.marchollingsworth.net/Folders/Webpages/ChineseLanguageResourcesEC.html> of this website as a good place to begin a study of basic Chinese grammar. This textbook is used in the first-year Chinese language courses in China to teach Chinese to non-native speakers.

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If you have any questions about the pronunciation of the Chinese words contained in this document, you can go to the Chinese Pronunciation webpage

<http://www.marchollingsworth.net/Folders/Webpages/ChinesePronunciationChartEC.html> of this website for further guidance and direction. If you have any questions about the content of this document, please email me:

<http://www.marchollingsworth.net/Folders/Webpages/contactEC.html>.

The examples supplied in this guide are arranged alphabetically by pinyin and structured as follows:

vocabulary word, pinyin, English definition -> 别的 bie2de – other

example sentence

-> 我没有别的问题。

pinyin for above characters

-> wo3 mei2you3 bie2de wen4ti2

direct English translation

-> I not have other questions

native English translation

-> I don't have any more questions (ie. to ask you)

In addition the following abbreviations are used:

m.w. – indicates a measure word

part. – indicates a particle

[] - brackets mean the surrounded text is optional

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Pronouns 代词:

A pronoun is a substitute for a noun and is a word which represents a person, place or object.

别的 bie2de – other

我没有别的问题

wo3 mei2you3 bie2de wen4ti3

I not have other questions

I don't have any more questions (ie. to ask you).

此 ci3 – this

(advanced)

大家 da4jia1 – everybody

大家都喜欢你。

da4jia1 dou1 xi3huan1 ni3

everybody all likes you

Everyone likes you.

地方 di4fang – place

那个地方在哪儿?

na4ge di4fang zai4 na3r

that m.w. place at where

Where is that place?

多少 duo1shao – how much, how many

这个多少前?

zhe4ge duo1shao qian2

this m.w. how much money

How much does this cost?

该 gai1 - it, this, that, the above mentioned

(advanced)

后者 hou4zhe3 – the latter

(advanced)

几 ji3 – several, used when the amount is relatively small ie. less than 10

有几个?

you3 ji3 ge4

have how many m.w.

How many are there?

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每 mei3 – every

我每天都去。

wo3 mei3tian1 dou1 qu4

I every day all go

Everyday I go (there).

那 na4 – that

那是谁？

na4 shi4 shei2

that is who

Who is that?

哪个 na3ge – which

哪个东西？

na3ge dong1xi

which m.w. thing

Which thing is it? (Of these objects, which one is it?)

那个 na4ge – that one, that

那个东西

na4ge dong1xi

that m.w. thing

That thing (Of these objects, it's that one)

那儿 na3r – where

他在那儿？

ta1 zai4 na3r

he at where

Where is he?

那儿 na4r – there

他在那儿。

ta1 zai4 na4r

He at there

He's there.

那里 na3li – where

你现在在哪里？

ni3 xian4zai4 zai4 na3li

you now at where

Where are you now?

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那里 na4li – there

我在那里。

wo3 zai4 na4li

I at there

I'm there.

那么 na4me – like that, in that way, so

那么远。

na4me yuan3

so far

It's so far.

那些 na4xie1 – those

那些花很漂亮。

na4xie1 hua1 hen3 piao4liang

those flower very pretty

Those flowers are pretty.

那样 na4yang4 – that way (method)

你那样做不行。

ni3 na4yang4 zuo4 bu4xing2

you that way do not good

It's not good (for you) to do it that way.

你 ni3 – you

你好。

ni3 hao3

you good

Hello.

你来自哪里？

ni3 lai2zi4 na3li

You come from where

Where are you from?

你们 ni3men – you (plural)

你们要去吗？

ni3men yao4 qu4 ma

you want go question-part.

Do you all want to go?

您 nin2 – you (polite)

先生您好。

xian1sheng1 nin2 hao3

sir you good

Hello sir.

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其 qi2 - refers to somebody or sth mentioned earlier, "that" , similar to 之

(advanced)

其中 qi2zhong1 – among, among which, thereinto, of which...

(advanced)

前者 qian2zhe3 – the former (previous)

(advanced)

谁 shei2 - who

他是谁？

ta1 shi4 shei2

he is who

Who is he?

什么 shen2me – what

这是什么？

zhe4 shi4 shen2me

this is what

What is this?

什么时候 shen2me shi2hou – when

我们什么时候到北京？

wo3men shen2me shi2hou dao4 bei3jing1

we what time arrive beijing

When will we arrive in Beijing?

他 ta1 – he, him

他是我的朋友。

ta1 shi4 wo3de peng2you

he is my friend

He's my friend.

她 ta1 – she, her

她是我的朋友。

ta1 shi4 wo3de peng2you

she is my friend

She's my friend.

它 ta1 – it (gender neutral)

它是我的狗。

ta1 shi4 wo3de gou3

It is my dog

It's my dog.

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他们 ta1men – they

他们都是我的同学。

ta1men dou1 shi4 wo3de tong2xue2

They all are my classmates

They're all my classmates.

为什么 wei4shen2me – why

你为什么想去看他？

ni3 wei4shen2me xiang3 qu4 kan4 ta1

you why want go see him

Why do you want to go see him?

我 wo3 – I, me

我是马克。

wo3 shi4 ma3ke4

I is Marc

I'm Marc.

我们 wo3men – us

我们都想去看他。

wo3men dou1 xiang3 qu4 kan4 ta1

We all want go see him

We all want to go see him.

些 xie1 – some

一些人

yi4xie1 ren2

some person

some people

怎么 zen3me – how

我们怎么去？

wo3men zen3me qu4

We how go

How should we go? (ie. by what transportation method)

怎么办呢？

zen3me ban4 ne

how handle part.

What should we do? (how should we handle this situation?)

不怎么难

bu4 zen3me nan2

not how difficult

not so difficult

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怎么样 zen3meyang4 – how about sth, making a suggestion

坐车去怎么样？

zuo4 che1 qu4 zen3meyang4

go by car go how about

How about [if] we go by car?

我们都想去看他。

wo3men dou1 xiang3 qu4 kan4 ta1

We all want go see him

We all want to go see him.

咱们 zan2men – us, similar to 我们 wo3men

咱们都想去看他。

zan2men dou1 xiang3 qu4 kan4 ta1

We all want go see him

We all want to go see him.

这 zhe4 – this

这是我的家。

zhe4 shi4 wo3de jia1

This is my home

This is my home.

这个 zhe4ge – this one, this

就是这个。

jiu4 shi4 zhe4ge

just is this one m.w.

It's just/exactly this one. (pointing out an item)

这儿 zhe4r – here

他在这儿。

ta1 zai4 zhe4r

He at here

He's here.

这里 zhe4li – here

我站在这里。

wo3 zhan4 zai4 zhe4li

I stand at here

I'm standing here.

这些 zhe4xie1 – these

这些花很漂亮。

zhe4xie1 hua1 hen3 piao4liang

these flower very pretty

These flowers are pretty.

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这样 zhe4yang4 – this way (method)

你这样做很好。

ni3 zhe4yang4 zuo4 hen3 hao3

you that way do very good

The way you did it is good.

之 zhi1 - refers to a previously stated thing or idea (carries it forward)

(advanced)

自己 zi4ji3 – oneself

你自己做吧。

ni3 zi4ji3 zuo4 ba

you yourself do part.

[You] do it yourself. (used 吧 ba, so is a suggestion)

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Nouns 名词:

A noun is a word which represents a person, place or object.

半 ban4 – half

一个半月

yi2ge4 ban4 yue4

one m.w. half month

one and a half months

...边儿 bian1r – side (direction)

这边儿

zhe4 bian1r

this side

this side

那边儿

na4 bian1r

that side

that side

前边儿

qian2 bian1r

front side

front side

后边儿

hou4 bian1r

rear side

rear (behind) side

左边儿

zuo3 bian1r

left side

left side

右边儿

you4 bian1r

right side

right side

此后 ci3hou4 – henceforth, thereafter 这儿

(advanced)

东西 dong1xi – thing

这个东西很贵。

zhe4ge dong1xi hen3 gui4

this m.w. thing very expensive

This thing is expensive.

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感觉 gan3jue2 – a feeling

这是我的感觉。

zhe4 shi4 wo3de gan3jue2

this is my feeling

This is my feeling. (about something)

这种感觉

zhe4 zhong3 gan3jue2

this kind feeling

this kind of feeling

刚才 gang1cai2 – just now

你刚才说的

ni3 gang1cai2 shuo1 de

you just now said part.

what you just now said

孩 hai2 – child

他是我的孩子。

ta1 shi4 wo3de hai2zi

he is my child

He is my child.

后 hou4 - behind

他在我后边儿。

ta1 zai4 wo3 hou4bian1r

he at my behind

He's behind me.

后来 hou4lai2 – afterwards (already happened)

后来我不想去看他。

hou4lai2 wo3 bu4 xiang3 qu4 kan4 ta1

afterwards I not want go see him

Afterwards, I didn't want to see him.

今年 jin1nian2 – this year

我今年要去北京。

wo3 jin1nian2 yao4 qu4 bei3jing1

I this year will go Beijing

This year I'll go to Beijing.

今天 jin1tian1 – today

我今天要去看他。

wo3 jin1tian1 yao4 qu4 kan4 ta1

I today will go see him

I'll go see him today.

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里 li3 – inside

那个箱子里是什么？

na4ge xiang1zi li3 shi4 shen2me

that m.w. box inside is what

What is that inside of that box?

面 mian4 – face of sth (side)

里面有什么？

li3mian4 you3 shen2me

inside have what

What's inside of it? (an object)

上面

shang4mian4

above face

above

下面

xia4mian4

below face

below

明年 ming2nian2 – next year

我明年要去北京。

wo3 ming2nian2 yao4 qu4 bei3jing1

I next year will go Beijing

Next year I'll go to Beijing.

名字 ming2zi - name

你叫什么名字？

ni3 jiao4 shen2me ming2zi

you call what name

What's your name?

男 nan2 – man

他是男的。

ta1 shi4 nan2 de

he is man part.

He's a man.

年 nian2 – year

2007年3月5日

nian2 yue4 ri4

year month day

March 5th, 2007

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女 nv3 – woman

她是女的。

ta1 shi4 nv3 de

she is woman

She's a woman.

女士 nv3shi4 – madame (polite form for “woman”)

三位女士

san1 wei4 nv3shi4

three m.w. woman

three women (ladies)

前 qian2 – front, before

三天前

san1 tian1 qian2

three days before

three days ago

去年 qu4nian2 – last year

我去年看过他。

wo3 qu4nian2 kan4 guo4 ta1

I last year saw past him

I saw him last year.

人 ren2 – person

每个人

mei3ge4 ren2

every m.w. person

every person

如今 ru2jin1 - nowadays, these days

(advanced)

事 shi4 – a matter, affair

这件事

zhe4 jian4 shi4

this m.w. matter

this matter

时候 shi2hou – during a time

吃饭的时候

chi1fan4 de shi2hou

eat food part. during

when eating

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时间 shi2jian1 – time

你现在有时间吗？

ni3 xian4zai4 you3 shi2jian1 ma
you now have time part.

Do you have time now?

天 tian1 – day

我每天都去。

wo3 mei3tian1 dou1 qu4
I every day all go.

Everyday I go (there).

问题 wen4ti2 – a question, problem

我想问你一个问题。

wo3 xiang3 wen4 ni3 yi2ge4 wen4ti2
I want ask you a m.w. question

I want to ask you a question.

我有一个问题。

wo3 you3 yi2ge4 wen4ti2
I have a m.w. question

I have a question.

小时 xiao3shi2 – an hour

一个小时

yi2ge4 xiao3shi2
one m.w. hour

one hour

先生 xian1sheng1 – sir (polite form for “man”)

三位先生

san1 wei4 xian1sheng1
three m.w. gentleman

three gentlemen

现在 xian4zai4 - now

你现在有时间吗？

ni xian4zai4 you3 shi2jian1 ma
you now have time part.

Do you have time now?

星期 xing1qi1 – week

今天星期几？

jin1tian1 xing1qi1 ji3
today week which one

What day (of the week) is it today?

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星期一 xing1qi1 yi1 – Monday

今天星期一。

jin1tian1 xing1qi1 yi1
today week one

Today is Monday.

我星期一要去看他。

wo3 xing1qi1 yi1 yao4 qu4 kan4 ta1
I Monday will go see him

I'll go see him on Monday.

星期二 xing1qi1 er4 - Tuesday

星期三 xing1qi1 san1 - Wednesday

星期四 xing1qi1 si4 - Thursday

星期五 xing1qi1 wu3 - Friday

星期六 xing1qi1 liu6 - Saturday

星期天 xing1qi1 tian1 – Sunday

以后 yi3hou4 - after

我吃饭以后要去看他。

wo3 chi1fan4 yi3hou4 yao4 qu4 kan4 ta1
I eat food after will go see him

After I eat I'll go see him.

以前 yi3qian2 – before

以前我没有这种感觉。

yi3qian2 wo3 mei2you3 zhe4 zhong3 gan3jue2
before I have not this kind feeling

In the past, I haven't had this kind of feeling.

以上 yi3shang4 – the above mentioned

(advanced)

以往 yi3wang3 - former,formerly

(advanced)

以下 yi3xia4 - the below mentioned

(advanced)

一时 yi4shi2 - for a period of time

(advanced)

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意思 yi4si – meaning

这是什么意思？

zhe4 shi4 shen2me yi4si

this is what meaning

What does this mean?

月 yue4 – month

我这个月要去看他。

wo3 zhe4ge4 yue4 yao4 qu4 kan4 ta1

I this m.w. month will go see him

I'll go see him this month.

我一月要去看他。

wo3 yi1 yue4 yao4 qu4 kan4 ta1

I January will go see him

In January I'll go see him

一月 yi1yue4 – January

二月 er4yue4 – February

三月 san1yue4 – March

四月 si4yue4 – April

五月 wu3yue4 – May

六月 liu4yue4 – June

七月 qi1yue4 – July

八月 ba1yue4 – August

九月 jiu3yue4 – September

十月 shi2yue3 – October

十一月 shi2yi1yue4 – November

十二月 shi2er4yue4 – December

之前 zhi1qian2 - (the time) before (a situation happened)

(advanced)

之后 zhi1hou2 - (the time) after (a situation happened)

(advanced)

中间 zhong1jian1 – middle

坐在他们两个中间

zuo4 zai4 ta1men liang3ge4 zhong1jian1

sit at them two m.w. center

sitting between (in the middle) those two (people)

最近 zui4jin4 – recently

我最近觉得我不去看他。

wo3 zui4jin4 jue2de wo3 bu4 xiang3 qu4 kan4 ta1

I recently feel I not want go see him

Recently I feel I don't want to go see him.

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昨天 zuo2tian1 – yesterday

我昨天去看他。

wo3 zuo2tian1 qu4 kan4 ta1

I yesterday go see him

Yesterday I went to see him.

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Numbers 数词:

Numbers are words which represent a count or quantity of something.

零 ling2 – zero

一 yi1 – one, 二 er2 – two, 四 si4 – four, 五 wu3 – five, 六 liu6 – six, 七 qi1 – seven, 八 ba1 – eight, 九 jiu3 – nine, 十 shi2 – 10

十一 shi2yi4 – 11, ...十九 shi2jiu4 - 19

二十 er4shi2 – 20, 三十 san1shi2 - 30, 四十 si4shi2 – 40, 五十 wu3shi2 – 50, 六十 liu4shi2 – 60, 七十 qi1shi2 – 70, 八十 ba1shi2 – 80, 九十 jiu3shi2 - 90

一百 bai3 – 100, 两百 liang3bai3 – 200, ... 九百 jiu3bai3 - 900

一千 qian1 – 1,000, 两千 liang3qian1 – 2,000, ... 九千 jiu3qian1 – 9,000

一万 wan4 – 10,000, 两万 liang3wan4 – 20,000, ... 九万 jiu3wan4 – 90,000

十万 shi2wan4 - 100,000

百万 bai3wan4 - 1,000,000

一亿 yi2yi4 - 100,000,000

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Common Measure Words 常用量词:

In Chinese, a number cannot quantify (be next to) a noun by itself, it must be accompanied by the measure word that is appropriate for the noun being used. Measure words can be seen as a way to divide up nouns into categories based on the nouns' nature and physical characteristics. Measure words are abbreviated in the examples below as m.w. or m. word.

把 ba3 – for chairs, tools, umbrellas, other things that can be held

三把椅子

san1 ba3 yi3zi
three m.w. chair

three chairs

本 ben3 – for books

三本书

san1 ben3 shu1
three m.w. book

three books

遍 bian4 – times

那本书我看了两遍。

na4 ben3 shu1 wo3 kan4 le liang3 bian4
that m.w. book I read part. two times

I've read that book two times.

次 ci4 – for times

三次考试

san1 ci4 kao3shi4
three m.w. test

to test three times, the three times that one has taken a test

他来了三次。

ta1 lai2 le san1 ci4
he come part. three m.w.

He's come three times.

个 ge4 – a generic measure word that can be used for objects that don't have their own measure word

三个东西

san1 ge4 dong1xi
three m.w. thing

three things

点 dian3 – for suggestions, opinions, ideas, etc

三点建议

san1 dian3 jian4yi4
three m.w. suggestion

three suggestions

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点 dian3 – used to emphasize a little of something, 一 yi4 and 几 er2 are both optional

你喝[一]点[几]什么?

ni3 he1 yi4 dian3r shen2me
you drink a little what

What would you like to drink?

点 dian3 – used to emphasize something unpleasant, 一 yi4 and 几 er2 are both optional

我有[一]点[几]冷。

wo3 you3 yi4 dian3r leng3
I have a little cold

I'm a little cold.

这个有[一]点[几]小。

zhe4ge you3 yi4 dian3r xiao3
This m.w. have a little small

This is a little small.

段 duan4 – for time, sections

那一段时间

na4 yi2duan4 shi2jian1
that one m.w. time

that period of time

那一段公路

na4 yi2duan4 gong1lu4
that one m.w. highway

that section of highway

份 fen4 – for newspapers

三份报纸

san1 fen4 bao4zhi3
three m.w. newspaper

three newspapers

封 feng1 – for letters

三封信

san1 feng1 xin4
three m.w. letter

three letters

幅 fu4 – for paintings

三幅画

san1 fu4 hua4
three m.w. painting

three paintings

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根 gen1 – for long thing objects

三根针

san1 gen1 zhen1

three m.w. needle

three needles

家 jia1 – for businesses

三家银行

san1 jia1 yin2hang2

three m.w. bank

three banks

件 jian4 – for clothes, gifts, matters

三件衣服

san1 jian4 yi1fu

three m.w. clothes

three pieces of clothing

三件事

san1 jian4 shi4

three m.w. matter

three matters (ie. for discussion)

jie2 – class periods, sections

两节课

liang3 jie2 ke4

two m.w. class

two class periods

棵 ke4 – for trees, plants

三棵树

san1 ke4 shu4

three m.w. tree

three trees

颗 ke1 – for small round things

三颗豆子

san1 ke1 dou4zi

three m.w. bean

three beans

口 kou3 – for the number of people in a family or village

三口人

san1 kou3 ren2

three m.w. person

three people

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

块 kuai4 – for things in chunks or solid pieces

三块石头

san1 kuai4 shi2tou

three m.w. rock

three rocks

辆 liang4 – automobiles

三辆车

san1 liang4 che1

three m.w. car

three cars

门 men2 – for classes

三门课

san1 men2 ke4

three m.w. class

three classes

名 ming2 – persons with professional or prominent social identities

三名医生

san1 ming2 yi1sheng1

three m.w. doctor

three doctors

排 pai2 – for things in rows

三排座位

san1 pai2 zuo4wei4

three m.w. seat

three rows of seats

匹 pi2 – for horses

三匹马

san1 pi2 mai

three m.w. horse

three horses

篇 pian1 – for articles, papers

三篇文章

san1 pian1 wen2zhang1

three m.w. article

three articles

片 pian4 – for slices and thin things

三片面包

san1 pian4 mian4bao1

three m.w. bread

three slices of bread

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

三片药片

san1 pian4 yao4pian4

three m.w. medicine tablet

three tablets of medicine

群 qun2 – a group, crowd or flock

一群鸟

yi4qun2 niao3

one m.w. bird

a flock of birds

声 sheng1 – for cries, shouts, utterances

他喊了我两声。

ta1 han3 le wo3 liang3 sheng1

he call part. I two m.w.

He called me two times (twice).

首 shou3 – for songs, poems, music

三首歌

san1 shou3 ge1

three m.w. song

three songs

双 shuang1 – a pair

三双鞋

san1 shuang1 xie2

three m.w. shoe

three pairs of shoes

所 suo3 – for buildings, houses, schools

三所学校

san1 suo3 xue2xiao4

three m.w. school

three schools

台 tai2 – for machines, equipment

三台电视

san1 tai2 dian4shi4

three m.w. television

three televisions

趟 tang4 – for trips made, journeys, visits

上个月我去了三趟北京。

shang4ge yue4 wo3 qu4 le san1 tang4 bei3jing1

last month I go part. three m.w. beijing

Last month I made three trips to Beijing.

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

套 tao4 – for apartments, sets, suites of things

三套房子

san1 tao2 fang2zi

three m.w. apartment

three apartments

三套课本

san1 tao4 ke4ben3

three m.w. book

three sets of books

条 tiao2 – for long, narrow things ie. pants, streets, information, human lives

三条裤子

san1 tiao2 ku4zi

three m.w. pants

three pairs of pants

位 wei4 – polite measure word for people

三位先生

san1 wei4 xian1sheng1

three m.w. gentleman

three gentlemen

三位女士

san1 wei4 nv3shi4

three m.w. woman

three ladies

下 xia4 – for brief actions

我敲了三下门。

wo3 qiao4 le san1 xia4 men2

I knock part. three m.w. door

I knocked three times at the door.

他点了几下头。

ta1 dian3 le ji3 xia4 tou2

he knodded his head several times

He knodded his head several times.

张 zhang1 – for flat things paper, tables, maps

三张桌子

san1 zhang1 zhou1zi

three m.w. table

three tables

阵 zhen4 – for wind, rain, etc

一阵风

yi4 zhen1 feng1

one m.w. wind

a gust of wind

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

支 zhi1 – for stick-like things, music

三支蜡烛

san1 zhi1 la4zhu2

three m.w. candle

three candles

只 zhi1 – for animals

三只鸡

san1 zhi1 ji1

three m.w. chicken

three chickens

张 zhang1 – for thin flat items ie. paper, photo

三张纸

san1 zhang1 zhi3

three m.w. paper

three pieces of paper

枝 zhi1 – for pencils, pens, etc

三枝笔

san1 zhi1 bi3

three m.w. pen

three pens

种 zhong3 – kind, can be used with most any noun

三种词典

san1 zhong3 ci2dian3

three m.w. dictionary

three kinds of dictionaries

座 zuo4 – for mountains, buildings, structures, bridges

三座山

san1 zuo4 shan1

three m.w. mountains

three mountains

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

Verbs 动词:

A verb is a word which expresses action or occurrence.

爱 ai4 – to love

我爱你。

wo3 ai4 ni3

I love you

I love you.

把 ba3 – to hold

把译文和原文比较一下

ba3 yi4wen2 he2 yuan2wen2 bi3jiao4 yi2xia4

hold translated document and original document compare brief

Take the translated and original document and briefly compare them.

办 ban4 – handle

他会办事。

ta1 hui4 ban4 shi4

he knows handle matter

He knows how to handle things (matters).

被 bei4 – noun+被 bei4+verb, the noun is the receiver of the verb's action, the noun's "state" changes

(advanced)

不顾 bu2gu4- in spite of

(advanced)

不管 bu4guan3 – regardless of

不管他。

bu4guan3 ta1

regardless him

Don't pay him any mind.

不然 bu4ran2 - otherwise, (or) else

(advanced)

不在乎 bu2zai4hu – not care

我不在乎。

wo3 bu2zai4hu

I don't at care

I don't care.

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

吃 chi1 – to eat

吃饭的时候
chi1fan4 de shi2hou
eat food part. during
when eating

打 da3 – to hit, dial

他打了我。
ta1 da3 le wo3
he hit part. me
He hit me.

他打个电话。
ta1 da3 ge4 dian4hua4
he dial m.w. phone
He makes a phone call.

带 dai4 – to bring

他没带钱。
ta1 mei2 dai4 qian2
he have not bring money
He didn't bring any money (with him).

当 dang1 – to serve as

他当老师。
ta1 dang1 lao3shi1
he serve teacher
He's a teacher.

到 dao4 – arrive, reach

我们什么时候到北京？
wo3men shen2me shi2hou dao4 bei3jing1
we what time arrive beijing
When will we arrive in Beijing?

等 deng3 – to wait

我等你。
wo3 deng3 ni3
I wait you
I'll wait for you.

等同 deng3tong2 – to equate

(advanced)

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

懂 dong3 – to understand

你懂吗？

ni3 dong3 ma

you understand part.

Do you understand?

读 du2 – to read

你读过这本书吗？

ni3 du2 guo4 zhe4 ben3 shu1 ma

you read have this m.w. book part.

Have you read this book?

发生 fa1sheng1 – to happen

什么时候发生？

shen2me shi2hou fa1sheng1

what time happen

When did it happen?

放 fang4 – put

放在那儿。

fang4 zai4 na4r

put at there

Put it there.

给 gei3 – give

这本书我给你。

zhe4 ben3 shu1 wo3 gei3 ni3

this m.w. book I give you

I'll give this book to you.

过 guo4 – to spend (time passed)

过一个星期就可以了。

guo4 yi2ge4 xing1qi1 jiu4 ke3yi3 le

spend one m.w. week just can part.

After a week's time it will be alright (the problem will be resolved)

关 guan1 - close

关门。

guan1men2

close door

Close the door.

喝 he1 - drink

你喝点儿什么？

ni3 he1 dian3r shen2me

you drink a little what

What would you like to drink?

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

恨 hen4 – to hate

我恨你。

wo3 hen4 ni3

I hate you

I hate you.

还 huan2 – to return sth to someone (ie. You borrowed)

我还给你书。

wo3 huan2gei3 ni3 shu1

I return give you book

I'll return the book to you.

回 hui2 – return

他回家。

ta1 hui2 jia1

he return home

He went home.

回来 hui2lai2 – to come back

他什么时候回来？

ta1 shen2me shi2hou hui2lai2

he what time return come

When did he come back?

会 hui4 – have studied sth so now can do it

他会说中文。

ta1 hui4 shuo1 zhong1wen2

he can speak chinese

He can (knows how to) speak Chinese.

即 ji2 – namely

(advanced)

见 jian4 - meet

你见到他了没有？

ni3 jian4dao4 ta1 le mei2you3

you meet complete he part. have not

Have you met him?

介绍 jie4shao4

我给你介绍。

wo3 gei3 ni3 jie4shao4

I give you introduction

I'll give you an introduction (to someone or something).

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

觉得 jue2de – to feel or think

我最近觉得我不想去看他。

wo3 zui4jin4 jue2de wo3 bu4 xiang3 qu4 kan4 ta1

I recently feel I not want go see him

Recently I feel I don't want to go see him.

开 kai1 – open

开门。

kai1men2

open door

Open the door.

看 kan4 – see

我看你。

wo3 kan4 ni3

I see you

I see you.

可以 ke3yi3 – can, may, passable

你可以走了。

ni3 ke3yi3 zou3 le

You can leave

You can leave now.

还可以。

hai2 ke3yi3

relatively passable

It's ok, not bad.

来 lai2 – come

他来了三次。

ta1 lai2 le san1 ci4

he come part. three m.w.

He's come two times.

来自 lai2zi4 – to come from a place

你是来自哪里？

ni3 shi4 lai2zi4 na3li

you is come from where

Where are you from?

令 ling4 - to cause

(advanced)

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

拿 na2 – to take or hold sth

我拿给你。

wo3 na2 gei3 ni3

I take give you

I'll give (this thing) to you.

能 neng2 – can

你明天能去吗？

ni3 ming2tian1 neng2 qu4 ma

you tomorrow can go part.

Can you go tomorrow?

请 qing3 – please

请问, 这个地方在哪里？

qing3 wen4, zhe4ge di4fang zai4 na3li

please ask, this m.w. place at where.

May I ask (please), where is this place?

去 qu4 – go

你明天能去吗？

ni3 ming2tian1 neng2 qu4 ma

you tomorrow can go part.

Can you go tomorrow?

让 rang4 – to ask, let

让我想一想。

rang1 wo3 xiang3 yi4 xiang3

let me think one think.

Let me think about it.

让 rang3 – to cause

(advanced)

认识 ren4shi – to know somebody or something

你认识他吗？

ni3 ren4shi ta1 ma

you know him part.

Do you know him?

你认识这个字？

ni3 ren4shi zhe4ge zi4 ma

you know this m.w. character part.

Do you know this character?

如 ru2 – similar to

(advanced)

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

使 shi3 - to cause

(advanced)

是 shi4 – is

他是谁？

ta1 shi4 shei2

he is who

Who is he?

是不是 shi4bu2shi4 - is it or isn't it

(advanced)

试 shi4 – to try

你试过了没有？

ni3 shi4 guo4 le mei2you3

you try before part. have not

Have you tried it before?

你试一下。

ni3 shi4 yi2xia4

you try brief

You can try it.

说 shuo1 – speak

他说什么？

ta1 shuo1 shen2me

he say what

What did he say?

听 ting1 – to listen

他喜欢听音乐。

ta1 xi3huan1 ting1 yin1yue4

he like listen music

He likes to listen to music.

同时 tong2shi2 - at the same time

(advanced)

为 wei2 – to mean or to serve as

(advanced)

问 wen4 - ask

我想问你一个问题。

wo3 xiang3 wen4 ni3 yi2ge4 wen4ti2

I want ask you a m.w. question

I want to ask you a question.

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

想 xiāng3 – think, want

你想吃什么？

ni3 xiāng3 chī1 shén2me
you want eat what

What do you want to eat?

喜欢 xǐ3huan1 – to like

他喜欢听音乐。

ta1 xǐ3huan1 tīng1 yīn1yue4
he like listen music

He likes to listen to music.

我喜欢你。

wo3 xǐ3huan1 nǐ3
I like you

I like you.

希望 xī1wang4 – to hope

他希望当医生。

ta1 xī1wang4 dāng1 yī1shēng1
he hope become doctor

He hopes to become a doctor.

写 xiě3 – to write

我给你写信。

wo3 gei3 nǐ3 xiě3 xìn4
I give you write letter

I'll write a letter to you.

要 yào4 – will, want to

我今年要去北京。

wo3 jīn1nián2 yào4 qù4 běi3jīng1
I this year will go Beijing

This year I'll go to Beijing.

应该 yīng1gai1 – should

(advanced)

有 yǒu3 – to have

你现在有时间吗？

ni xiān4zài4 yǒu3 shí2jiān1 ma
you now have time part.

Do you have time now?

以 yǐ3 – to use

(advanced)

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

与 yu3 – the process of a movement, to give, with, and

(advanced)

站 zhan4 - stand

我站在这里。

wo3 zhan4 zai4 zhe4li

I stand at here

I'm standing here.

知道 zhi1dao4 – to know

我不知道这件事。

wo3 bu4 zhi1dao4 zhe4 jian4 shi4

I not know this m.w. matter

I don't know about this matter.

你知道吗？

ni3 zhi1dao4 ma

You know part.

Do you know (about this matter or fact)?

我不知道。

wo3 bu4 zhi1dao4

I not know

I don't know.

走 zou3 – walk

我们走路去。

wo3men zou3lu4 qu4

we walk go

Let's go by foot.

做 zuo4 – to do

做事

zuo4 shi4

do matter

to do something

坐 zuo4 – to sit

请坐。

qing3zuo4

please sit

Please sit down (have a seat).

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

Adverbs 副词:

An adverb is a word that serves as a modifier to a verb, adjective or another adverb.

比较 bi3jiao4 – compare, comparatively

把译文和原文比较一下

ba3 yi4wen2 he2 yuan2wen2 bi3jiao4 yi2xia4

hold translated document and original document compare brief

Take the translated and original document and briefly compare them.

比较容易

bi3jiao4 rong2yi4

relatively easy

relatively easy

便 bian4 – similar to 就 jiu4, then

(advanced)

便和 bian4he2 – similar to 和 (is both 口语 kou3yu3 spoken and 书面 shu1mian4 written)

(advanced)

不 bu4 – not

我不知道。

wo3 bu4 zhi1dao4

I not know

I don't know.

不仅 bu4jin3...同时 tong2shi2 – not only...also(at the same time)

(advanced)

不用 bu2yong4 – need not

不用怕。

bu2yong4 pa4

not use afraid

Don't be afraid.

常 chang2 - often

这里你常来吗?

zhe4li ni3 chang2 lai2 ma

here you often come part.

Do you often come here?

曾经 ceng2jin1 – formerly

(advanced)

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

从不 cong2bu4 – never

我从不抽烟。

wo3 cong2bu4 chou1yan1

I never smoke cigarettes

I never smoke cigarettes.

大都 da4dou1 – mostly

(advanced)

大概 da4gai4 – about, approximately

大概两个小时

da4gai4 liang3ge4 xiao3shi2

approximately two m.w. hours

about two hours

都 dou1 – all

我的学生都很有进步。

wo3 de xue2sheng1 dou1 hen3 you3 jin4bu4

I part. student all very have progress

All of my students have made a lot of progress.

多 duo1 – how much, long, etc, indicating degree or extent

这个孩子多大了？

zhe4ge hai2zi duo1 da4 le

this m.w. child how old part.

How old is this child?

他要在这里呆多久？

ta1 yao4 zai4 zhe4li dai1 duo1 jiu3

he will at here stay how long

How long will he stay here?

非常 fei1chang2 – really

非常重要

fei1chang2 zhong4yao4

really important

really important

赶到 gan3dao4 – when

(advanced)

刚 gang1 – just (now)

我刚回来。

wo3 gang1 hui2lai2

I just return come

I just came back.

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

还 hai2 – also, in addition, still

你还有问题吗？

ni3 hai2 you3 wen4ti2 ma
you still have question part.

Do you still have questions?

很 hen3 – very

这个很重要

zhe4ge hen3 zhong4yao4
this m.w. very important

This is really important

几乎 ji1hu1 – almost, nearly

(advanced)

极 ji2 – extremely

(advanced)

既 ji4 – already, as well as

(advanced)

就 jiu4 – just, indicating emphasis

我马上就回来。

wo3 ma3shang4 jiu4 hui2lai2
I moment just return come

I'll be back in a minute.

就是 jiu4shi4 – it's just

对，就是这个！

dui4 jiu4 shi4 zhe4ge
right just is this

Right, it's this (this is the one)!

可能 ke3neng2 – possible

可能我去。

ke3neng2 wo3 qu4
possible I go

Maybe/it's possible I'll go.

立即 li4ji2 – immediately

(advanced)

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

马上 ma3shang4 – immediately

我马上就回来。

wo3 ma3shang4 jiu4 hui2lai2

I moment just return come

I'll be back in a minute.

没 mei2 – did not

我没去过。

wo3 mei2 qu4 guo4

I have not go past

I haven't been/gone there (before).

没有 mei2you3 – to not have, did not

我没有别的问题。

wo3 mei2you3 bie2de wen4ti2

I not have other questions

I don't have any more questions (ie. to ask you).

少 shao3 – few, less, seldom

他的朋友很少。

ta1 de peng2you hen3 shao3

he part. friend very few

He doesn't have many friends.

他很少看电视。

ta1 hen3 shao3 kan4 dian4shi4

he very seldom watch television

He seldom watches television.

甚至 shen4zhi4 – so much that, even, so far as to

(advanced)

是否 shi4fou3 - whether or not

(advanced)

太 tai4 – very, too (negative)

太好了！

tai4 hao3 le

very good part.

That's great!

太棒了！

tai4 hao3 le

very excellent part.

That's really excellent!

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

太贵了！

tai4 gui4 le

too expensive part.

That's too expensive!

先 xian1 – first

你先来。

ni3 xian1 lai2 ba

you first come part. .

You (can) go first.

也 ye3 – also

我是美国人，他也是。

wo3 shi4 mei3guo2 ren2 ta1 ye3 shi4

I is american person he also is

I'm an American and so is he..

一定 yi2ding4 – surely, certainly, definitely, be sure to

他一定会成功。

ta1 yi2ding4 hui4 cheng2gong1

he certainly can/will succeed

He will definitely/is definitely able to succeed.

已经 yi3jing1 – already

他已经忘了。

ta1 yi3jing1 wang4 le

he already forget part.

He already forgot.

以来 yi3lai2 – since

(advanced)

已是 yi3shi4 – already is

(advanced)

一起 yi4qi3 – together

我们一起吃饭。

wo3men yi4qi3 chi1fan4

we together eat food

Let's eat together.

已现 yi3xian4 – already now

(advanced)

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

一直 yi4zhi2 – continuously

雨一直下了一天一晚。

yu3 yi4zhi2 xia4 le yi4 tian1 yi4 wan3
rain continuously part. one day one night

It's been raining continuously for a day and a night.

有时候 you2 shi2hou – sometimes

他有时候想家。

ta1 you3shi2hou xiang3 jia1
he sometimes miss home

Sometimes he misses home.

又 you4 – again, as well

一年又一年

yi4 nian2 you4 yi4 nian2
one year again one year

year after year

他又重复了她的话。

ta1 you4 chong2fu4 le ta1 de hua4
he again repeat part. her part. words

He again repeated her words.

you4...又 you4 – indicating repetition of acts (similar to and)

他又看我又看她。

ta1 you4 kan4 wo3 you4 kan4 ta1
he again look me again look her

He both looked at me and looked at her.

正 zheng4 – just, right, precisely

他正在听音乐。

ta1 zheng4 zai4 ting1 yin1yue4
he right at listen music

He's just now listening to music.

正是 zheng4shi4 - just about, no other than, because

(advanced)

只 zhi3 – only

他只有五块。

ta1 zhi3 you3 wu3 kuai4
he only have five dollars

He only has five dollars.

只是 zhi3shi4 - merely, just, no more than

(advanced)

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

至今 zhi4jin1 – up to now

(advanced)

总[是] zong3shi4 – always

我总是觉得他很好。

wo3 zong3shi4 jue2de ta1 hen3 hao3

I always is feel he very good

I always feel he's a good person.

我总是忘了。

wo3 zong3shi4 wang4 le

I always is forget part.

I always forget.

最 zui4 – most

我最喜欢他的歌。

wo3 zui4 xi3huan1 ta1de ge1

I most like he part. song

I like his songs the best.

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

Adjectives 形容词:

An adjective is a word that modifies a noun.

不同 bu4tong2 – different

这两种感觉是一样还是有一些不同?

zhe4 liang3 zhong3 gan3jue2 shi4 yi2yang4 hai2shi4 you3 yi4xie1 bu4tong2
this two kind feeling is same or have some different

Are these two feelings the same or are there some differences?

长 chang2 – long

他的头发很长。

ta1 de tou2fa hen3 chang2
he part. hair very long

His hair is long.

很长时间

hen3 chang2 shi2jian1
very long time

a long time

错 cuo4 – wrong

这个字是错的。

zhe4ge zi4 shi4 cuo4 de
this m.w. character is wrong part.

This character is wrong (the wrong one, or written one).

你说得错。

ni3 shuo1 de cuo4
you say part. wrong

What you said is wrong.

大 da4 – big

很大的一个问题

hen3 da4 de yi2ge4 wen4ti2
very big part one part. problem

a very big problem

这个房间很大。

zhe4ge fang2jian1 hen3 da4
This m.w. room very big

This room is very big.

当然 dang1ran2 – of course

(advanced)

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

短 duan3 – short

很短时间

hen3 duan3 shi2jian1

very short time

a short time

对 dui4 – right

你说得对。

ni3 shuo1 de dui4

you say part. right

What you said is correct.

这个不对。

zhe4ge bu2dui4

this m.w. not right

This (item) is wrong.

高 gao1 – high

这个楼很高。

zhe4ge lou2 hen3 gao1

This part. building very high

This building is very high.

贵 gui4 – expensive

这个东西太贵了。

zhe4ge dong1xi tai4 gui4 le

This part. thing too expensive part.

This thing is too expensive.

近 jin4 – close

我的家离这里很近。

wo3 de jia1 li2 zhe4li hen3 jin4

I part. home from here very close

My home is close to here.

旧 jiu4 – old

这个东西很旧。

zhe4ge dong1xi hen3 jiu4

This part. thing very old

This thing is very old.

旧衣服

jiu4 yi1fu

old clothes

old clothes

绝对 jue2dui4 – absolutely

(advanced)

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

快 kuai1 – quick

他做得快。

ta1 zuo4 de kuai4

he do part. quick

He did it quickly.

老 lao3 – old (in age)

他很老。

ta1 hen3 lao3

he very old

He's very old.

慢 man4 – slow

他走得慢。

ta1 zou3 de man4

he walk part. slow

He walked slowly.

忙 mang2 – busy

他很忙。

ta1 hen3 mang2

he very busy

He's very busy.

美 mei3 – beautiful

那个地方很美。

na4ge di4fang hen3 mei3

that m.w. place very beautiful

That place is very beautiful.

难 nan2 – difficult

这个很难。

zhe4ge hen3 nan2

this m.w. very difficult

This is very difficult.

不怎么难

bu4 zen3me nan2

not how difficult

not so difficult

漂亮 piao4liang – pretty

她很漂亮。

ta1 hen3 piao4liang

she very pretty

She's very pretty.

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便宜 pian2yi4 – cheap (not expensive)

这个很便宜。

zhe4ge hen3 pian4yi
this m.w. very cheap

This is very cheap.

轻 qing1 – light

这个东西很轻。

zhe4ge dong1xi hen3 qing1
This part. thing very light

This thing is very light.

容易 rong2yi4 - easy

这个很容易。

zhe4ge hen3 rong2yi4
This part. very easy

This is very easy.

上 shang4 – upper

上等

shang4deng3
upper grade

high grade/quality

特别 te4bie2 – especially

特别好听

te4bie2 hao3 ting1
especially good listen

sounds especially (really) good (ie. music)

特别好吃

te4bie2 hao3 chi1
especially good eat

tastes especially (really) good

晚 wan3 – late

时间很晚。

shi2jian1 hen3 wan3
time very late

It's late now.

下 xia4 – lower

下等

xia4deng3
lower grade

low grade/quality

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

小 xiao3 – small

这只狗很小。

zhe4 zhi1 gou3 hen3 xiao3
this m.w. dog very small

This dog is very small.

新 xin1 – new

这辆车是新的。

zhe4 liang4 che1 shi4 xin1 de
this m.w. car is new part.

This car is new.

行 xing2 – allright

我们一起去，行吗？

wo3men yi4qi3 qu4 xing2 ma
we together go allright part.

Let's go together, allright?

一样 yi2yang4 – the same

这两种感觉是一样还是有一些不同？

zhe4 liang3 zhong3 gan3jue2 shi4 yi2yang4 hai2shi4 you3 yi4xie1 bu4tong2
this two kind feeling is same or have some different

Are these two feelings the same or are there some differences?

远 yuan3 - far

我的家离这里很远。

wo3 de jia1 li2 zhe4li hen4 yuan3
I part. home from here very far

My home is far from here.

早 zao3 – early

时间很早。

shi2jian1 hen3 zao3
time very early

It's early now.

真 zhen1 – really

我真喜欢你。

wo3 zhen1 xi3huan1 ni3
I really like you

I really like you.

重 zhong4 – heavy

这个东西很种。

zhe4ge dong1xi hen3 zhong4
This part. thing very heavy

This thing is very heavy.

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重要 zhong4yao4 - important

非常重要

fei1chang2 zhong4yao4

really important

really important

这个很重要。

zhe4ge hen3 zhong4yao4

this m.w. very important

This is really important.

Chinese Grammar and Vocabulary Guide

Prepositions 介词:

A preposition is word that combines with a noun or pronoun to form a phrase. It often indicates direction or place.

除了 chu2le...[以外 yi3wai] – except for...

(advanced)

从 cong2 – from

从这儿到那儿大概有五六百米。

cong2 zhe4r dao4 na4r da4gai4 you3 wu4 liu6 bai3 mi3
from here to there about have five six hundred meter

From here to there it's about five or six hundred meters.

对 dui4 – to

她对他说“我喜欢你”。

ta1 dui4 ta1 shuo1 wo3 xi3huan1 ni3
she to he say I like you

She said to him, “I like you”.

给 gei3 – to

这件事她已经给我说过。

zhe4 jian4 shi4 ta1 yi3jing1 gei3 wo3 shuo1 guo4
this m.w. matter she already to me say past

She has already spoken to me about this matter.

跟 gen1 – with, and

我跟你一起去。

wo3 gen1 ni3 yi4qi3 qu4
I with you together go

I'll go together with you.

就连 jiu4lian2...都 – similar to even

(advanced)

据 ju4 - according to

(advanced)

离 li2 – away from some point

我的家离这里很远。

wo3 de jia1 li2 zhe4li hen4 yuan3
I part. home from here very far

My home is far from here.

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随着 sui2zhe - along with

(advanced)

同 tong2 – with (another person...has a feeling of equality)

(advanced)

以 yi3 – according to

(advanced)

由于 you2yu2 - as a result of

(advanced)

于 yu2 – similar to 在 zai4

(advanced)

往 wang3 – towards

往前走

wang3 qian2 zou3

towards front walk

walk towards the front

为 wei4 - indicates an objective or the object of one's act, by way of, in the interest of, for the sake of

(advanced)

在 zai4...之上 zhi1shang4 – upon

(advanced)

在 zai4 – at, on

我在这里

wo3 zai4 zhe4li

I at here

I am here.

他不在

ta1 bu2zai4

he not at

He's not here/not in.

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Conjunctions 连接词:

A conjunction is a word that joins together sentences, clauses, phrases, or words.

便 bian4 – similar to 就 jiu4, showing possible concession

(advanced)

并且 bing4qie3 - furthermore, and besides

(advanced)

不但 bu2dan4 – not only

(advanced)

不过 bu2guo4 – indicates other possibility, different than 但是 dan4shi4

(advanced)

不然 bu4ran2 - or else, otherwise, if not

(advanced)

才 cai2 – similar to 所以 suo3yi3, a basis to the previous statement

(advanced)

此外 ci3wai4 - besides, moreover, in addition

(advanced)

从而 cong2er2 - consequently, thereby, accordingly

(advanced)

但是 dan4shi4 - but, yet, usually indicates there no other possibility

他想说，但是不知道说什么。

ta1 xiang3 shuo1 dan4shi4 bu4 zhi1dao4 shuo1 shen2me
he want speak but not know speak what

He wants to speak, but doesn't know what to say.

对于 dui4yu2 - regarding, about

(advanced)

而 er2 - expresses coordination between two things ...而...

(advanced)

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而[且]er2qie3 - moreover, furthermore

(advanced)

还是 hai2shi4 – or, gives a choice (alternative) between two options

你去还是我去？

ni3 qu4 hai2shi4 wo3 qu4

you go or I go

Do you go or do I go?

你想吃鸡肉还是牛肉？

ni3 xiang3 chi1 ji1rou4 hai2shi4 niu2rou4

you want eat chicken or beef

Do you want to eat chicken or beef?

和 he2 – connects nouns ie. 我和你

我和你

wo3 he2 ni3

I and you

me and you

北京和上海都很大。

bei3jing he2 shang4hai3 dou1 hen3 da4

Beijing and Shanghai both very big

Beijing and Shanghai are both very big.

或者 huo4zhe3 – or, used in indicative sentences where both options are possible

我常常在家看书或者看电视。

wo3 chang2 chang2 zai4 jia1 kan4shu1 huo4zhe3 kan4 dian4shi4

I often at home read book or watch television

At home I often read a book or watch television.

请把东西给他或者她。

qing3 ba3 zhe4ge dong1xi gei3 ta1 huo4zhe3 ta1

please take this m.w. thing give hi or her

Please give this thing to him or her (either one is ok).

及 ji2 – and, similar to 和 he2

(advanced)

及其 ji2qi2 – 及 ji2 means and, 其 refers to the thing stated before 及 ji2 and functions similar to 之 zhi1

(advanced)

既 ji4...有着 you3zhe...又 – and, as well

(advanced)

尽管 jin4guan3 - even though, in despite of, for all, notwithstanding

(advanced)

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那么 na4me – so then, used to introduce a new thought

那么时间很晚，我们回家吧。

na4me shi2jian1 hen3 wan3 wo3men hui2 jia1 ba
so time late we return home part.

It's late now, so let's go home.

然而 ran2er2 – whereas

(advanced)

仍然 reng2ran2 – all the same, however

(advanced)

如果 ru2guo3 – if

如果你想去看，就告诉我。

ru2guo3 ni3 xiang3 qu4 jiu4 gao4su4 wo3
if you want go just tell me

If you want to go, just tell me.

所以 suo3yi3 - so, therefore

他今天生病了，所以去看病。

ta1 jin1tian1 sheng1bing4 le suo3yi3 qu4 kan4bing1
he today sick part so go see doctor

He's sick today, so he went to see the doctor.

同时 tong2shi2 - moreover, furthermore

(advanced)

为 wei4...而 er2(所以 suo3yi3)做的 zuo4de - in order to...so therefore did/make something

(advanced)

一 yi2...就 jiu4...- the first thing stated is a premise to the second

(advanced)

以及 yi3ji2 – as well as, along with

(advanced)

因 yin1...而 er2 - because of...so therefore...

(advanced)

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因为.....所以 yin1wei4...suo3yi3 - because...so therefore

因为他今天生病了，所以去看病。

yin1wei4 ta1 jin1tian1 sheng1bing4 le suo3yi3 qu4 kan4bing1
because he today sick part. so go see doctor

He's sick today, so he went to see the doctor.

于是 yu2shi4 – thereupon

(advanced)

与 yu3 – similar to 和 he2 and

(advanced)

则 ze2 - however

(advanced)

正如 zheng4ru2 – for even as

(advanced)

至于 zhi4yu2 – as far as, in so far as, regarding

(advanced)

之所以 zhi1suo3yi3...是 shi4... – emphasizes the result first 所以...then the reason 是-> reason

(advanced)

只要 zhi3yao3...就 jiu4... - only if, provided that

(advanced)

只有 zhi3you3...才 cai2... - only if

(advanced)

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Particles and Auxiliary Words 助词:

In Chinese, these words are used to create changes in tone of voice, indicate a changed state of affairs, create possession, express result and degree, etc. This is just a small sampling of the particles. I encourage you to consult a dictionary for more details on usage.

啊 a – emphasizes admiration or warning

多好的天气啊!

duo1 hao3 de tian1qi4 a
a lot good part. weather part.

The weather is really good today!

这是真的啊!

zhe3 shi4 zhen1 de a
this is really part. part.

This is really true!

吧 ba – placed at end of sentence to create a suggestion or soften the tone of the speaker

你自己做吧。

ni3 zi4ji3 zuo4 ba
you yourself do part.

You do it yourself (used 吧 ba, so is a suggestion)

的 de, 得 de, 地 de - There are three types of “de” particles:

1. 的 de – this “de” is called 白勺的 bai2shao2de and is used in the following situations:

a. used as an attribute after a noun, the noun is 花 hua1 flower

花的颜色

hua1de yan2se4
flower part. color

the color of the flower/ the flower's color

b. used as an attribute after a verb, the verb is 讨论 tao2lun4 discussion

讨论的问题

tao2lun4 de wen4ti2
discussion part. problem

the problem for discussion

c. used after an adjective

the adjective is 聪明 cong1ming2 smart

聪明的孩子

cong1ming2 de hai2zi
smart part. child

a smart child

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the adjective is 高 gao1 high

很高的山

hen3gao1 de shan1

very high part. mountain

very high mountains

d. used after a pronoun to create possession

他的衣服

ta1 de yi1fu

his part. clothes

his clothes

e. used after a number

两天的时间

liang3 tian1 de shi2jian1

two day part. time

two day's time/ of time

f. used after a phrase

我对这个问题的看法

wo3 dui4 zhe4ge wen4ti2 de kan4fa3

I to this m.w. problem part. view

my view on this problem

g. used between a verb and a noun, another form of possession similar to 1 d.

他写的书

ta1 xie3 de shu1

he wrote part. book

the book he wrote

去年买的车

qu4nian2 mai3 de che1

last year part. car

the car bought last year

h. used between a personal pronoun and noun to show a role or recipient of action, 会 hui4 meeting is the noun and 谁 shei2 is the personal pronoun.

今天的会谁的主席?

jin1tian1 de hui4 shei2 de zhu3xi2

today part. meeting who part. chairman

Who is the chairman for today's meeting?

i. used after words belonging to the same parts of speech and functions similar to that of "and so on, etc", in this case 花 hua1 flower and 草 cao1 grass are similar parts of speech

他不喜欢花儿草儿的。

ta1 bu4 xi3huan1 hua1r cao3r de

he not like flower grass part.

He doesn't like flowers, grass, and things like that.

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- j. attached to a verb, noun, pronoun, or adjective to create a nominalizer (a name)

卖书的

mai3 shu1 de
sell book part.

the bookseller (a person)

the adjective 红 hong2 red becomes a noun 红的 hong2de “red one”:

有红的

you3 hong2 de
have red part.

the red one

你刚才说的

ni3 gang1cai2 shuo1 de
you just now say part.

what you just said

这辆车是新的。

zhe4 liang4 che1 shi4 xin1 de
this m.w. car is new part.

This car is a new one/This car is new.

- k. when two nouns are together, 的 should be used

听录 ting1lu4 transcription and 对话 dui4hua4 conversation are both nouns:

听录原来的对话

ting1lu4 yuan2lai2 de dui4hua4
transcription original part. conversation

the conversation transcription

听录 ting1lu4 transcription and 演讲 yan3jiang3 speech are both nouns:

听录的演讲

ting1lu4 de yan3jiang3
transcription part. speech

the conversation transcription

- l. when there is a noun plus a verb, then **don't** use 的

对话 dui4hua4 conversation is the noun and 说明 shuo1ming2 explain is the verb:

对话说明

dui4hua4 shuo1ming2
conversation explain

the conversation explanation

标题 biao1ti2 headline is the noun and 解释 jie3shi4 define is the verb:

标题解释

biao1ti2 jie3shi4
headline explain

the headline explanation

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m. to create a mood or emphasize tone

是他的

shi4 ta1 de
is he part.
it's his

你是美国的。

ta1 shi4 mei3guo2 de
he is american part.
He is American.

n. to create a 如果 ru2guo3 if construction

有时间的话

you3 shi2jian1 de hua4
have time part. word.
when (you) have time

2. 得 de – this “de” is called 双人得 shuang1ren2de and is used in the following situations:

a. used between a verb and it's complement to indicate result

写 xie3 write is the verb and 非常好 fei1chang2 hao3 is the complement (好 hao3 is the adjective):

写得非常好
xie3 de fei1chang2 hao3
write part. very good
written very well

拿 na2 carry is the verb and 动 dong4 move is the complement (动 dong4 move is a verb):

我拿得动。
wo3 na2 de dong4
I take part. move
I can carry it.

办 ban4 handle is the verb and 到 dao4 succeed is the complement (到 dao4 succeed is a verb):

办得到
ban4 de dao4
handle part. succeed
can be done

b. used between an adjective and an adverb or adjective to indicate degree

好 hao3 good is the adjective and 很 hen3 very is the complement (很 hen3 very is an adverb):

好得很
hao3 de hen3
good part. very
very good

冷 leng3 cold is the adjective and 好 hao3 a lot is the complement (好 hao3 a lot is an adjective):

天气冷得好。
tian1qi4 leng3 de hao3
weather cold part. alot
The weather is very cold.

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c. used between a verb and a verb to indicate possibility

回 hui2 return is the adjective and 来 lai2 come is the complement (来 lai2 come is an verb):

明天我回得来。

ming2tian1 wo3 hui2 de lai2
have time part. word.

Tomorrow I'll probably come back.

3. 地 de – this “de” is called 土地地 tu3di4de and is used after an adjective, a noun or a phrase and before a verb to express how the verb was done.

快 kuai4 quick is the adjective and 说 shuo1 speak is the verb:

他很快地说。

ta1 hen3 kuai4 de shuo1
he very quick part. speak

He spoke quickly.

了 le – the particle is used in the following situations:

a. used after a verb or adjective to indicate completion of work or change

降低 jiang4di1 drop is the verb and the thing that has changed is 水位 shui3wei4 water level:

水位已降低了两米。

shui3wei4 yi3 jiang4di1 le liang3 mi3
water level already drop part. two meter

The water level has dropped already by two meters.

看 kan4 read is the verb and the thing that has changed is 书 shu1 book (it's been read twice):

那本书我看了两遍

na4 ben3 shu1 wo3 kan4 le liang3 bian4
that m.w. book I see part. two times

I've read that book two times

b. placed at the end of a sentence in the form of a modal particle to indicate a change

The thing that has changed is 他们 ta1men they which previously were at one place, but now are at another place 外交部 wai4jiao1 bu4 diplomatic department:

他们现在是外交部的干部了。

ta1men xian4zai4 shi4 wai4jiao1 bu4 de gan1bu4 le
they now is diplomat department part. cadre part.

Now they are a cadre at the diplomatic department.

c. placed at the end of a sentence to show a past event

The past event is 上动物园 shang4 dong4wu4yuan2 zoo which happened 上星期天 shang4 xing1qi1tian1 last Sunday:

上星期天，他带孩子上动物园了。

shang4 xing1qi1tian1 ta1 dai1 hai2zi shang4 dong4wu4yuan2 le
last Sunday he take children achieve zoo part.

Last Sunday he took his children to the zoo.

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d. placed at the end of an imperative sentence to indicate advice

别说话了!

bie2 shuo1hua4 le
don't talk part.

Don't talk/stop talking!

走了, 做了!

zou3 le, zou3 le
walk part. walk part.

Let's go, let's go!

吗 ma – placed at end of sentence to create a question

你现在有时间吗?

ni xian4zai4 you3 shi2jian1 ma
you now have time part.

Do you have time now?

呢 ne – placed at end of sentence to create an affirmative tone

Creates an interrogative sentence:

怎么办呢?

zen3me ban4 ne
how handle part.

What should we do? (how should we handle this situation?)

Creates emphasis:

还远着呢!

hai2 yuan3 zhe ne
still far part. part.

It's still far away! (emphasizing right now we are still far away from our destination)

之 zhi – serves a purpose similar to 的

(advanced)

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Grammatical Terms 语法术语:

声母 sheng1mu3 – initial (consonant)

韵母 yun4mu3 – final (vowel)

声调 sheng1diao4 – tone

语音 yu3yin1 – phonetics

音节 yin1jie2 – syllable

主语 zhu3yu3 – subject

谓语 wei4yu3 – predicate

宾语 bin4yu3 - object

主题 zhu3ti2 - topic

补语 bu4yu3 – complement

分句 fen1ju4 – clause

复句 fu4ju4 – complex sentence

定语 ding4yu3 – attribute

助词 zhu4ci2 – particle aux word

动词 dong4ci2 – verb

副词 fu4ci2 – adverb

状语 zhuang4yu3 – adverbial

名词 ming2ci2 – noun

代词 dai4ci2 - pronoun

形容词 xing2rong2ci2 – adjective

量词 liang4ci2 – measure word

数量 shu4liang4 – number (quantity)

疑问代/副词 yi2wen4 dai4/fu4 ci2 – interrogative pronoun/adverb

离合词 li2he2ci2 – a word that can be broken up into two pieces and other words put between
ie. 睡觉->睡了两个小时的觉